

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06343 261505Z

53

ACTION PPT-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 AF-06 /022 W

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O R 261401Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4823

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC (DROMI, AMIR)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL IN MIDDLE EAST

REF: CAIRO 5326 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION REQUESTED

PARA 3 CAIRO 6081, EMBASSY PASSED SAME TO MFA OFFICIAL (TUHAMI) WITH REQUEST FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. NO REPLY RECEIVED UNTIL TODAY WHEN, AFTER SEVERAL CALLS BY EMBOFF, MFA OFFICIAL RESPONDED ORALLY THAT NORMALLY, IF AMERICAN PASSPORT BEARS AN ISRAELI VISA, WHETHER VALID OR EXPIRED, AN INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLING ALONE WOULD BE PROHIBITED ENTRY INTO EGYPT. "ALONE" IS DEFINED AS PERSON OR PERSONS OTHER THAN THOSE IN A TOUR GROUP. PERSONS TRAVELLING IN TOUR GROUPS, SOURCE SAYS, ARE USUALLY ADMITTED EVEN IF PASSPORT BEARS ISRAELI VISA UNLESS RPT UNLESS BEARER'S NAME APPEARS ON EGYPTIAN BLACKLIST.

2. MFA OFFICIAL WAS OBVIOUSLY HEDGING ON WHETHER VISA WOULD BE ISSUED TO SUBJECT, BUT FACT OF REFUSAL TO DO SO BY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN NAIROBI SUGGESTS UNLIKELIHOOD HE WOULD BE GRANTED AIRPORT VISA HERE.

3. SINCE ABOVE CLAIM BY MFA OFFICIAL DOES NOT SQUARE WITH WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE EGYPTIAN POLICY, AS FREQUENTLY REAFFIRMED TO US BY FONMIN FAHMY, AMBASSADOR CONTACTED MINSTATE RIAD THIS AFTERNOON FOR CLARIFICATION

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OF THIS SEEMING INCONSISTENCY. RIAD ALSO UNDER IMPRESSION

EGYPTIAN POLICY IS TO PERMIT AMCITS TO ENTER EGYPT
DESPITE ISRAELI VISA, BUT THOUGH THIS POLICY MAY HAVE
BEEN SUSPENDED FOLLOWING 1967 WAR. HE AGREED THAT
CLARIFICATION OF POLICY IS NECESSARY AND UNDERTOOK REQUEST
FONMIN (NOW IN ALEXANDRIA) TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH
MININT FAHMY IN ORDER HAVE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO
EGYPTIAN POSTS ABROAD AND EGYPTIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS.

5. IN ABSENCE NEEDED CLARIFICATION, RIAD UNFORTUNATELY
FELT HE COULD DO NOTHING FOR SUBJECT. IN CIRCUMSTANCES,
SUBJECT MAY BE WELL ADVISED NOT TO TRY TO ENTER EGYPT
AT THIS TIME.
EILTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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